

NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

(*Mr. Huddersfield*)

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The district of New Mill occupies 6215 acres of hilly, or almost mountainous, country at an elevation above the sea varying from 400 to about 1400 feet, lying on a mixed formation of sandstone, clay, shale, and coal, and having a wet and cold climate, with a rainfall of over 50 inches per annum. The high ground forms a watershed from which streams converging to the North and West form the New Mill Dyke, which joins the Holme and Calder, and supplies power and water to many Woollen Mills and Dyeworks. On the South and East are moors and a more rural country, which drains towards the rivers Don and Dearne.

The population at the last census was 4624, living in 1014 houses. It is probably declining in number, but not at a great rate, as I am informed that the number of inhabited houses remains about the same. The people are employed in the manufacture of woollen cloth and yarn, in dyeing, coal and clay mining, brick and pipe making, coke burning, stone quarrying, agriculture, tailoring, and the usual small trades of a country district. The land is mostly in grass, divided into small holdings. The farmers do not usually depend entirely on their farms for a livelihood, but they or some member of their families often work in the mills or other works, or are employed in carting, &c. None of these occupations are particularly unhealthy, but I think few of the stone workers reach an advanced age.

Employment has not been so good as in 1907, and there has been a strike among the miners. Many of the mills are still empty and becoming more dilapidated. Many workers go outside the district to work, often walking long distances; for there are no railways or tramways within its area.

The houses are mostly grouped in villages near the river and the mills, as at New Mill and Jackson Bridge, or on slight elevations in their neighbourhood, as at Scholes and Hepworth. There are seldom any empty houses in these villages, but there are many in the outlying districts, a considerable proportion of which are becoming too dilapidated for use. The houses are generally roomy and well built of stone, but some are old and damp. I can not say that any occupied house is unfit for habitation. Any house may become insanitary in the hands of some families, and the habits of the occupiers may be more injurious than the defective structure of the house. There is

generally plenty of open space about the houses, and tidiness is gradually being promoted by the erection of dust-bins.

Plans of new buildings are submitted to the Health Committee and the Surveyor.

Three new houses of a superior character have been built and others re-constructed, and a new Day School has been erected during the year. I inspected the new houses and was very well pleased with them, except that a small room had been constructed without a fireplace. You ought always to insist upon a fireplace in every bedroom, although I am quite aware that it is too often the custom of the tenant to plaster up the fireplace and nail up the window sash. A wooden house has also been built near Riddle Pits, which I have not yet seen. If good modern cottages were built in New Mills, Scholes, or Hepworth, they would easily be let, but the builders tell me they cannot provide them so as to compete with the rents of the old houses which are often let at 1/6 per week, or even less.


Water Supply.—All the populous parts of the district have a plentiful and continuous supply of pure soft water, from the reservoir at Bankhouse Nick and the drifts at Gooseholes, but the supply has not yet been tried in a really dry summer.

The water has been tested for lead several times in former years, with negative results, and there have been no cases of lead poisoning.

At Victoria the source of the Gatehead well has been opened up and a reserve made, but the well is so far distant from the houses about Victoria, that that district must still be described as needing a suitable supply of water.

Milk.—This Council has made no provisions for the testing of milk, food, or drugs. It is left to the County Authorities. In every case of infectious disease notified, I make, or cause to be made, careful enquiries as to the milk used, and I have never been able to associate any epidemic with any particular milk delivery. Many isolated cases may have been caused by milk, which is well known to be a very common means of spreading infection, but I have no evidence with respect to the milk sold in this district.

The Infantile Mortality rate is moderately low, but the mortality due to tuberculosis has been high except in the last two years.



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Cowsheds.—A register is kept in which are the names of 15 cowkeepers, occupying 25 cowsheds. There are very many others who keep milk cows, but do not sell milk, and many who sell a little to their neighbours only; these are not included. All those which are registered have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. About half-a-dozen of them are up-to-date, about a dozen have numerous defects, and the rest fail to agree with the model regulations in almost every particular. I hope the Health Committee will themselves visit the sheds at Moorlands and Mount at an early date, and that some action will be taken soon.

Sewerage.—All the populous parts of the district are systematically sewered, and extensive sewage disposal works have been constructed. In addition, small tanks with land filtration have been laid down to deal with small outlying groups of houses, as at Fulstone Village, Magnum, and Piper House. I am sorry to have to report that the scheme for draining Flowery Field and Hade Edge, described in last year's report, has not been carried out. The reason given is that a new Surveyor has been appointed, whose time has been occupied in making 70 yards of connections; taking a line of pipes 234 yards long to connect Meal Hill with the main sewers; and he is engaged now in laying 170 yards to connect a few houses at Hepworth, and making other connections.

The New Mill Dyke, which collects most of the water in the district, is polluted by natural springs of iron water, by drainage from the mines, by effluents from the mills and dye-works. It is never used for any domestic purpose, and now that domestic sewage has been withdrawn, it is not likely to cause any nuisance within the district, because the stream is a very rapid one, and there are no stagnant places except the dams of unoccupied mills.

Scavenging.—The contents of the earth and ash privies are carted on to the land, and the house refuse and rubbish to tips. This work is done by contractors, the Council's sanitary workmen, and by owners. There is still some want of co-ordination among these various systems.

Four new ashes closets have been built, and two reconstructed. At Glendale Mills, thirteen water closets have been constructed, and connected with the sewers. I have noticed a few dilapidated privies in the outlying districts, where sanitary defects ought to have the attention of your officers during the present year.

Nuisances.—The Sanitary Inspector reports that at the end of 1907 he had 17 cases of nuisance in hand; 33 nuisances were reported during 1908; 41 were abated, leaving nine in hand at the end of the year. Nine legal notices were issued, but no legal proceedings were necessary.

Offensive Trades.—There are no lodging-houses, canal boats, or offensive trades. There are two slaughter-houses which are well kept, and another is being re-constructed under the direction of the Inspector and Surveyor.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Disease.—Notification has been in force since 1896. When necessary, cases are removed to the Colne and Holme Joint Hospital, Meltham. 19 cases were notified this year, and 13 were removed to Hospital.

Infected premises are stoved by the formalin lamp. Infected bedding and clothing is sent to the Hospital for disinfection when necessary. Disinfectants are distributed free. Pathological matter is sent to the Bacteriological Laboratories at Wakefield for diagnosis in doubtful cases.

Tuberculosis.—The Council, along with various other authorities, have had the subject of the control of Tuberculosis under consideration, with a view to some joint action in the direction of providing sanatoria, but I have nothing definite to report. Handbills describing the disease, and giving useful information as to the means of best arresting the spread of it, have been freely distributed.

It has not been made notifiable, and no action is taken in known cases. There is no hospital accommodation, except a few beds at Crosland Moor Workhouse. I find people are very loath to go there.

Workshops.—The number of registered workshops in the district is 31, employing 58 persons, which is less than two per shop, so there is no overcrowding. They comprise:—

Tailors	11
Dressmakers and Milliners	5
Shoemakers and Cloggers.....	5
Blacksmiths and Mechanics.....	3
Joiners and Wheelwrights	4
Photographer	1
Flockmaker	1
Baker.....	1

They have all been inspected and generally found satisfactory as to air space, means of ventilation and sanitary conveniences, but the cloggers still allow too much dust and dirt to accumulate. No standard has been fixed under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, the numbers being too small to call for any action.

The bakery is suitable in every way structurally, but had not been recently white-washed. That has now been done.

There are not many married women employed in the factories and workshops of this district, and there is not much putting out of children to nurse, consequently infantile mortality is lower than in many manufacturing districts.

Vital Statistics—I. Births.—During the year the births of 110 infants were registered, making a birth-rate of 23.8 per thousand persons living within the district per annum. This is the lowest rate since the district was formed. The average birth-rate for the previous ten years was 27.3. The birth-rate for Fulstone was 22.2; for Hepworth, 28.7; for Scholes, 22.5. The rate for the whole country for 1908 was 26.5. Although the births were few in number, they were still

exactly twice as numerous as the deaths, and the excess of births over deaths, which is called the natural increase, was 55. The average natural increase is about 60.

II. Deaths.—The deaths of 54 persons were registered within the district. One death, which occurred at the Isolation Hospital, has to be included, making a total of 55, and a death-rate of 11.8 per 1000, which is a very low rate. The average rate for the last ten years was 15.0 per thousand. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1908 was 14.7. The rate for the quarter ending March was 12.9; June, 9.5; Sept., 12.0; and Dec., 12.9.

The numbers of deaths and the death rates for each township were as follows :—

	No.	Rate for 1908.	Average Rate.
Fulstone.....	22	10.8	16.0 per 1000 per an.
Hepworth ...	11	10.5	14.0 " " " "
Scholes	22	14.1	14.1 " " " "

Infantile Mortality.—Eleven infants died before reaching the age of twelve months, making an infantile mortality rate of 100 per 1,000 births, which is a moderately low rate. The average for the last ten years was 114. The rate for England and Wales for 1908 was 121.

These infantile deaths are analysed in Table V, in which it is shown that 1 child died from Diarrhoea, 1 from premature birth, 2 from congenital defects, 1 from debility, 2 from convulsions, 1 from pneumonia, 2 from suffocation from over-lying, and 1 from some other cause.

While the infantile mortality rate for this district is regularly lower than that for the whole country, there does not appear to be any urgent necessity for the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, especially as there is no organization which could make use of the notification in the way of offering help and advice to mothers. Of course, there is still much ignorance and prejudice which might be removed, and a kindly interest might encourage even better management, so if any ladies wish to take up this work, I will advise the Council to adopt the Act.

A.—III. Disease.—As indicated by the registered cause of death.

The following diseases were certified as the causes of the 55 deaths :

	No.	Rate per 1,000 per ann.
Enteric or Typhoid		
Fever.....	1	·21
Influenza.....	1	·21
Diarrhoea	1	·21
Enteritis	2	·43
Phthisis	4	·86
Other Tuberculous		
Diseases	1	·21
Cancer	3	·64
Bronchitis	2	·43
Pneumonia	3	·64
Other Diseases of		
Respiratory Organs	2	·43
Cirrhosis of Liver..	1	·21
Premature Birth...	1	·21
Disease of Parturi-		
tion	1	·21
Heart Diseases....	8	1·73
Accidents	3	·64
Suicide	1	·21
All other causes		
unclassified ...	20	4·32
Total ...	55	11·89

As all these numbers and rates are below the average they do not call for much comment, but we may notice that the Zymotic death-rate (due to common infectious diseases) was only .43, while the rate for the whole country was 1.29.

Phthisis.—The death-rate for phthisis or consumption was also below the average, viz., .86, which is the same as that for 1907. The phthisis death-rate for the whole country for 1907 was 1.14.

The following figures show the rates for the last ten years for New Mill, and for the West Riding of Yorkshire, respectively :—

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
New Mill.	1·08	·64	1·51	1·93	1·72
County.	1·33	1·23	1·14	1·00	·99

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	Average.
New Mill.	1·08	1·51	2·16	1·29	·86	= 1·38
County.	1·02	1·01	·94	·95	·98	= 1·06

The comparison is not favourable to the district. The excess of mortality from phthisis is due, in my opinion, to the dampness of the climate, old-fashioned structure and dampness of many of the houses, hereditary tendency and the continual drain by emigration, whereby, probably, the most vigorous lives are lost to the district. However, the rates for the last two years were low, so perhaps a better era is beginning.

B—(Disease continued) As indicated by Notification Returns.

During 1908 I received certificates notifying 19 cases of infectious disease, as compared with 36 in 1907. They referred to

6 cases of Diphtheria.

1 case of Erysipelas.

7 cases of Scarlet Fever.

5 cases of Enteric or Typhoid.

Diphtheria.—Three of these cases which occurred at Gate Foot and High Banks were outside the water supply and sewerage areas. Of the others, two lived on the extreme borders of the district, and attended schools outside the district.

Scarlet Fever.—Three of these cases occurred outside the water supply and sewerage areas. One was found in a late stage of peeling, living close to an Infants' School. One or two slight cases which were followed by an epidemic of German Measles, may really have been that disease.

Enteric or Typhoid.—These were mostly sporadic cases of unknown origin, but a fatal case occurred at Crow Edge, also outside the water supply and sewerage areas, and from it arose one or perhaps two or three other cases.

Out of these 19 notified cases, 13 were sent to the Isolation Hospital. The above-mentioned case of Typhoid died there.

There was always room at the hospital when needed.

C. — (Disease continued) Other Infectious Diseases.

In May there was a sharp epidemic of German Measles in Hepworth village. As the disease was quite new to the district, I thought most of the children would be susceptible to it, so I advised the closure of the Church of England School, after which the epidemic soon died down.

In October, cases of ordinary measles appeared about Paris, and the disease assumed epidemic proportions about Victoria. It seems to have about ceased now. There is nothing noteworthy to say about other diseases.

Finally, the Council and the district are to be congratulated on the lowness of the death-rate, and the small amount of disease which may, in large measure, be attributed to the improved sanitary conditions, although the cool and showery weather of the summer months and the mildness of the autumn helped to some extent.

For the future I have again to urge the need of drainage at Flowery Field and Hade Edge, and to suggest that the condition of the individual houses in the outlying parts of the district should next receive some attention.

*Undercliffe House
Holmfirth*

FEBRUARY 10th, 1909.

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT THORP.

TABLE I.
NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and
previous years.*

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS.				Deaths of Resi- dents regist'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		No.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			No.	Rate.*
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births registd	No.	Rate.*			
1898	4624	136	29·4	14	102·9	67	14·4	1	68	14·7
1899	4624	136	29·4	20	147·0	73	15·7		73	15·7
1900	4624	139	30·0	15	107·9	77	16·6	2	78	16·8
1901	4624	120	25·9	17	141·6	63	13·6	7	70	15·1
1902	4656	124	26·6	17	137·1	69	14·8	3	72	15·4
1903	4624	134	28·9	15	111·9	66	14·2	1	67	14·4
1904	4624	120	25·9	11	91·6	74	16·0	1	75	16·2
1905	4624	124	26·8	16	129·0	56	12·1	6	62	13·4
1906	4624	120	25·9	8	66·6	56	12·1	3	59	12·7
1907	4624	111	24·0	11	99·0	64	13·8	8	72	15·5
Averages for Years 1898—1907	4627	126·4	27·3	14·4	113·9	66·5	14·3		69·6	15·0
1908	4624	110	23·8	11	100·0	54	11·6	1	55	11·8

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } ... 6215

Total population at all ages .. 4624
Number of inhabited houses .. 1014
Average number of persons per house .. 4·5 } At
Census
of 1901.

TABLE II.

NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Names of localities.	Whole District.				Fulstone.				Hepworth.				Scholes.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898	4624	136	68	14												
1899	4624	136	73	20												
1900	4624	139	78	15	2026		37	7	1047		15	5	1551		26	3
1901	4624	120	70	17	2026	44	33	8	1047	34	15	4	1551	42	22	5
1902	4656	124	72	17	2046	60	30	8	1051	29	17	6	1559	35	25	3
1903	4624	134	67	15	2026	55	31	9	1047	31	13	2	1551	48	23	4
1904	4624	120	75	11	2026	55	31	3	1047	28	22	6	1551	37	22	2
1905	4624	124	62	16	2026	66	34	10	1047	29	10	3	1551	29	18	3
1906	4624	120	59	8	2026	54	33	5	1047	33	10	3	1551	33	16	
1907	4624	111	72	11	2026	46	31	2	1047	31	16	6	1551	34	25	3
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907	4627	126.4	69.6	14.4	2028.5	54.2	32.5	6.5	1047.5	30.7	14.75	4.3	1552	36.8	22.1	2.8
1908	4624	110	55	11	2026	45	22	3	1047	30	11	3	1551	35	22	5

TABLE III.
NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Cases notified in Whole District.					Total cases notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.			
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.				Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.	Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							
DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Group) ..	6	1	5			6			4			4
ERYSIPELAS	1			1		1						
SCARLET FEVER	7	2	5				6	1		3	1	4
ENTERIC FEVER	5		2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	5
Totals	19	3	12	2	2	9	8	2	6	5	2	13

TABLE IV.
NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages.)			
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.	Isolation Hospital.
Enteric Fever	1					1			1		(1)
Epidemic Influenza	1	1							1		
Diarrhœa	1	1						1			
Enteritis	2		1				1			2	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	4				1	3		2	2		
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1					1		1			
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	3					1	2		1	2	
Bronchitis	2						2			2	
Pneumonia... ..	3	1				1	1	1	2		
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	2						1		1	
Alcoholism) Cirrhosis of Liver)	1					1		1			
Premature Birth... ..	1	1								1	
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1					1			1		
Heart Diseases	8				1	5	2	5		3	
Accidents	3	2					1		1	2	
Suicides	1					1				1	
All other causes	20	3	1	1	1	4	10	10	2	8	
All causes	55	11	2	1	3	19	19	22	11	22	(1)

TABLE V.
NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	3-4 Months.	5-6 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All causes	Certified	...	...	2	1	1	4	1	2	3	1	11
	Uncertified	...	...							
Diarrhœa, all forms									1			1
Premature Birth									1			1
Congenital Defects...				1		1	2					2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus								1				1
Convulsions				1			1			1		2
Pneumonia											1	1
Suffocation, overlying										2		2
Other causes					1		1					1
Totals				2	1	1	4	1	2	3	1	11

NEW MILL
URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT .

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health . . .

FOR THE YEAR

1908.



Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st December, 1908.

To the Rural District Council of Norham and Islandshires.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

It affords me much pleasure in laying before you my Annual Report, being for the year 1908. The Returns I have received from the Registrars of Births and Deaths, show that 151 Births were registered, being 18 more than the number registered in 1907, and equal to a rate of 24.94 per 1,000 of the population (6054.)

In the same period the Deaths registered of all ages from all causes numbered 95, as compared with 92 last year, being an increase of 3. The Death Rate for 1907 was 15.19, and for 1908, 15.69, being an increase of .50 per 1,000 of the population. There were 4 deaths as the results of accidents during the year.

I have prepared the information required to be inserted in the Six Official Tables of Statistics supplied by the Local Government Board. The Table with reference to Infantile Mortality shows 9 deaths during the year of Children under one year—one more than last year.

The Tables show that I have received during the year 26 notifications of Infectious Diseases, 2 less than last year. The cases notified were of the following description :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

One case of Diphtheria proved fatal. During the year Whooping Cough and Diphtheria were prevalent in the District, which occasioned the closing of Horncliffe and Norham Schools for a period.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council granted permission to conduct water from the main pipe into the Vicarage, Police Station, and one private house at Norham. The Pumps in the various Villages in the District are in good working order. A new and good supply of water has been provided for the Boathouse Farm.

SEWERAGE.

Periodical visits have been paid by the Inspector and myself to the various places in the District. The most important matter under this heading is the Sewerage of Norham. It is the consensus of opinion that the state of affairs is bad, and not conducive to good health. This matter, however, is in the hands of the Council. The sewerage system of Cornhill Village is also in need of attention, and is also in the hands of the Council.

A new sewer has been laid in Bell's Field, Holy Island—the old one being done away with. This is a step in the right direction. The Drainage System from Cornhill Station Premises, has been provided with a filter, thus ensuring a good effluent into the burn.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Plans for the erection, alteration, and improvements of Buildings have been approved of by the Council, namely :—

New Stationmaster's house at Goswick ;
Alterations and additions to Two Cottages at Norham for the Rev. J. Wharton Mason ;
Alterations and additions to Two Cottages at Norham for Mr. George Aynsley.
Teacher's Dwelling house, East Ord Council School ;
Alterations and additions to Wilford Fishery Shield ;
Corrugated Iron Lecture Hall at Horncliffe.

Improvements have been carried out at the following places :—

Cheswick Buildings Farm Cottages ;	Ord Moor Dairy and Cottages ;
East Newbiggen Do. ;	West Ord Farm Cottages ;
East Loanend Do. ;	New channel, Fenkle Street, Holy Island.

It would be a great benefit to Norham Village if a proper place was provided for tipping refuse. The village School is now under the consideration of the County Council.

The Registered Dairies in the District have been periodically visited during the year, and found in good order, and no complaints were made to the Council. 4 cases of Anthrax occurred in the District during the year :—1 at Lowlynn, 1 at Cheswick Buildings, 1 at Galagate, and 1 at Ancroft North Farm. The following have been registered as Cow-keepers during the year :—

Mrs. C. E. Lyall,	...	..	...	...	...	Norham.
Alex. Little,	...	...	...	...	...	East Ord.
Sammel Davidson,	...	...	...	...	...	East Ord.
John Smith,	...	...	...	...	...	Galagate.
John Lowrey,	...	...	...	...	...	Ancroft Mill.
William Craigs,	...	...	...	...	...	Lowlynn Mill.

The Factories (numbering 4), and the Workshops (numbering 12) have been regularly inspected, and everything found satisfactory. A Register of these premises is now being kept, as required by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. PAXTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

NORHAM, 4th February, 1909.

EXTRACT from Table of Deaths accompanying this Report:—

POPULATION OF DISTRICT	6,054
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General Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population, 15.69.

AGES OF PERSONS DYING—

Under 1 year	17
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	4
5 years and under 15 years...	...	...	...	...	...	3
15 years and under 25 years	...	...	...	...	...	3
25 years and under 65 years	...	...	...	...	...	29
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	39
						— 95

CAUSES OF DEATH—

Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	..	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	..	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	16
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4
Influenza	...	...	...	..	...	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	8
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	36
						— 95